

Serial No.: 09/550,878
Attorney Docket No.: F-118

Patent

REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 24-30 were pending in the Application. Applicants have amended claim 24 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Applicants submit that no new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 24-30 will remain pending in the application.

2. Rejections under 35 USC section 102

In section 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 24-30 under 35 U.S.C. section 102(e), as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,321,210 to O'Brien, et al. ("O'Brien '210").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 24. Accordingly, the rejection is moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections. Applicant's undersigned attorney again respectfully invites the Examiner to telephone to further discuss the application in order to further prosecution.

3. Conclusion Of Remarks

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

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4. Authorization

Please charge the required fee as specified in the Amendment Transmittal letter enclosed herewith. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-118.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-118.

Respectfully submitted,



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